

The President's Daily Brief

Sunday
~~26~~ ²⁷ September 1970

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SUPPLEMENT TO PDB OF SEPTEMBER 26

Cabled to Kissinger In Paris
September 27, 1970
27 SEP 1970

MIDDLE EAST

There is still no word on the six American hostages who apparently remain in fedayeen hands. The six include two Department of Defense officials, one foreign service officer, two Rabbis who hold dual American and Israel citizenship, and one scientist from New York. The retention of these six may indicate that the PFLP still hopes to use them in bargaining with the Jordanians or to secure the release of Palestinians in Europe and Israel. Meanwhile, we continue to receive reports that the PFLP is threatening attacks against US installations in the Middle East and may attempt further hijackings.

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King Husayn has named a 13-man civilian-military cabinet, headed by Ahmad Tuqan, a Palestinian known in the past for being sympathetic to the fedayeen. The new government has seven civilians--six of them Palestinian including Tuqan--and retains five military men from the previous all-military government. The army's retention of key ministerial portfolios indicates that it continues to exert the strongest influence in the country, and that the King and army have not softened their attitudes toward the fedayeen. Tuqan's appointment is a gesture to the Palestinians but he is not a strong personality and will find it difficult to hold his own with the military members still in the cabinet.

Although security has been established in most areas of Amman, fighting continues in the areas around the major refugee camps in the city. Radio Amman has announced that the around-the-clock curfew will be lifted for five hours daily. There was fighting yesterday in the Zarqa area, 16 miles northeast of Amman, when army forces attempted to advance on the town which the fedayeen claim still to control.

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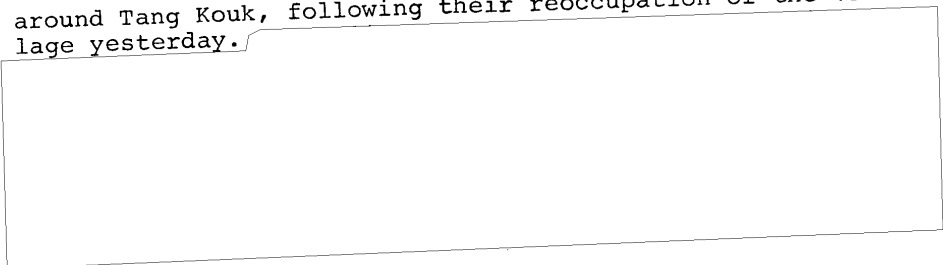
Sudanese Premier Numayri has returned to Cairo with his delegation and attacked Husayn for "an organized plot and premeditated plan to crush the Palestinian people." Husayn, stung by the charge, has accused Numayri of "serious distortions and defamations" which would aggravate the situation.

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CAMBODIA

Government forces are conducting clearing operations around Tang Kouk, following their reoccupation of the village yesterday.



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